



**HISTORIC
FRANKLIN
TENNESSEE**

City of Franklin – Flood 2010

GUIDELINES FOR REPAIRING ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS EXPOSED TO FLOODWATER

Making an informed decision on whether to repair or replace electrical wiring and devices.

Most likely, the electrical system in your home or building is not rated for wet locations. The effect of contaminated floodwater on the electrical system varies and may not be evident for months. This checklist is intended to assist you and your contractor in evaluating and repairing your home or building electrical system that has been exposed to floodwater.

All parts of an electrical system (including all electrical devices, outlets, switches, equipment and some wiring) not rated for wet locations, which have been submerged in floodwaters should be replaced. Old fabric coated wiring, knob & tube type wiring or any other submerged wiring that is in poor physical condition should be replaced too. However, if Romex wiring (NM cable) is plastic sheathed wiring and if in good shape it will be allowed to remain.

Given the expense to evaluate the electrical system, it may be more economical and reassuring to replace the wiring and devices exposed to contaminated floodwater.

After reviewing this checklist, if you or your contractor have any questions please contact the Building and Neighborhood Services Department at (615) 794-7012.

1. Contact your insurance adjuster. Determine if your insurance covers repair or replacement.
2. Contact qualified, licensed electrical contractors. Obtain written estimates. It is recommended to obtain at least three estimates (professional opinions).
3. Repair or replace? The Building and Neighborhood Services Department offers **free permits** for affected property owners. A permit must be obtained whether the electrical system is to be replaced or repaired. Your contractor will not be charged for a permit and should not charge you.

4. How can you obtain a permit? Except as provided, permits are only issued to State of Tennessee licensed electrical contractors.
 - **Exception:** Property owners, who own and occupy their home, may obtain a permit to replace electrical wiring and devices in their home. **However, if the electrical service or panel has been exposed to floodwater a licensed electrician must obtain a permit and make the repair.**
5. Where to obtain a permit. The Building and Neighborhood Services Department located in City Hall, suite 110. Hours: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Monday – Friday.
6. **Seriously consider our recommendation to replace wiring and devices exposed to floodwater.** This will insure a long-lasting repair and provide assurance to the building owner and inspector the building will be safe when the electricity is restored.
7. How to request an inspection. After the wiring has been installed and prior to the walls being covered with sheetrock, contact the Building and Neighborhood Services Department at 591-5603. Inspections requested before 2:00 PM will be made the next working day.
8. After the inspection of the electrical system has been satisfactorily completed, the City Inspector will contact Middle Tennessee Membership Electrical Corporation to have the electrical service turned-on or provide authorization for electricity to be restored to the entire building.
9. For more information on reenergizing flood damaged electrical systems see the guidebook “Evaluating Water Damaged Electrical Equipment” provided by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) at www.nema.org